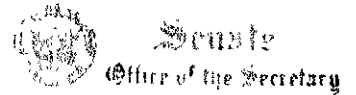


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAR 16 P3:02

SENATE
S. No. 2695

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF AGRY-BIOTERRORISM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

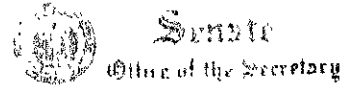
Agri-bioterrorism is the act of knowingly or maliciously using biological agents as weapons against the agricultural industry and the food supply. It would be an attack against one of the Philippines' most vital industries and is certainly a cause for concern as it is currently not contemplated in law as a crime. An attack against the agricultural industry would be financially devastating and would have the effect of severely reducing the public's faith in the quality of the food supply, whether the food was grown in the Philippines or elsewhere.

The economic damages caused by the accidental outbreaks of animal disease, such as the foot-and-mouth disease, bird flu, and mad cow disease are immense. Additionally, the deliberate introduction of fungi, bacteria, or pests could have an equally destructive effect. Given that a significant percent of the population already suffer from hunger and malnourishment, any bioterrorism attack would affect millions of lives, jobs and cause severe dislocations in the Philippines food supply. Hence, this bill seeks to define and penalize the crime of agri-bioterrorism.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
SP

¹ This bill is based on Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, US Congress.

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 AN ACT
2 DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF AGRI-BIOTERRORISM

3 SECTION 1. *Crime of Agri-Bioterrorism.* – A person is guilty of agri-bioterrorism
4 when, with intent to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a
5 unit of government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a unit of
6 government, the person commits any of the following prohibited acts:

7 (A) Designs, develops and utilizes a process or processes to genetically alter plant
8 life used for human consumption with the intent to render said plant life toxic or
9 unsuitable for human or livestock consumption;

10 (B) Intentionally introduces an animal virus, pathogen, or bacteria which would
11 kill livestock or render the by-products of such livestock unusable for human
12 consumption;

13 (C) Intentionally defiles, corrupts or alters the food or farm product with the intent
14 to sicken or kill persons or animals; or

15 (D) Intentionally manufactures, designs, or alters genetic material to result in a
16 pathogen, virus or bacteria capable of disrupting or destroying the food or farm product.

17 SECTION 2. *Penalties.* – Any person committing an act which constitutes agri-
18 bioterrorism as defined in the previous section shall be punishable by a penalty of
19 imprisonment ranging from *reclusion temporal* to life imprisonment, or a fine ranging

1 from Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) to One Million Pesos
2 (₱1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into consideration all
3 attending circumstances.

4 SECTION 3. *Aggravating Circumstances.* – The penalties described in the
5 previous section shall be imposed in the maximum if the act of agri-bioterrorism results
6 in the following circumstances as a result of the victim’s consumption or use of the
7 altered or contaminated agricultural, livestock, food or farm product:

8 (A) Death;

9 (B) Insanity or psychological damage the same; and

10 (C) *Permanent physical disfigurement or permanent disability.*

11 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
12 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
13 remain valid and subsisting.

14 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
15 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/dpmFeb2015